LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday April 2, 1992/ Chaitra 13, 1914 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Flood Relief to Karnataka

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*511. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA: SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have sought additional financial assistance for flood relief and restoration of public properties damaged in August and November, 1991 by cyclonic storms and heavy rains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount released by the Union Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Government of Karnataka have sought additional Central assistance of Rs. 144.00 crores for relief measures in the wake of floods in the State during August, October and November, 1991.

2. Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, State Government is required to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from the provisions of the Calamity Relief Fund. The Central Government need provide additional Central assistance only in the case of a calamity warranting handling at the national level. The memorandum of the State Government has been considered in the light of existing scheme for financing the relief expenditure and the severity of the flood situation in the State and it has been decided that no additional Central assistance is required to be provided to the State. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs. 20.25 crores to the Calamity Relief Fund of the State during the year 1991-92.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in August and November 1991, Kolar, Bangalore and Tunkur districts were the worst affected districts by the cyclone. In Kolar district alone, more than 30,000 houses were fully damaged. The total loss was estimated to be about Rs. 150 crores. I am grateful to Shri Uttambhai Patel, the hon.

Minister for Rural Development who was kind enough to visit the affected areas. He has sanctioned Rs. 1.25 crores for the construction of houses, roads and tanks. Under the same plank I thank the hon. Minister for Agriculture, Shri Balaram Jakhar, who has also visited the affected areas. The amount sanctioned so far to the cyclone sufferers in the State of Karnataka is Rs. 144 crores. The State Government has also released some financial assistance but it is a meagre sum.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of cyclone victims in Karnataka who have received the assistance apart from the financial assistance given to the flood affected areas. I would also like to know the steps taken by the Central Government to protect the property from damage.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the names of the persons who have received the assistance from the State Government are concerned, I would like to say that we have to ask for this information from the State Government because they are handling it.

The question of relief fund or the relief assistance to be given by the Centre to the State, is a very simple question and time and again it has been answered on the floor of the House. As you know, Sir, the 9th Finance Commission laid down certain criteria for providing the financial assistance for the relief work. Under CAPART, the Central Government used to send a team to assess the damage and then it used to determine the financial assistance to be given. The 9th Finance Commission decided that all this money should be given in proportion to the average of about 10 years. So, 75 per cent of the total assistance is given by the Central Government which comes to about Rs. 601 crores and the rest, that is Rs. 203 crores is provided by the State itself. This makes the total of Rs. 804 crores. That can be the nuclei for the assistance to be given in case of a calamity. We cannot do anything more than this.

Only in the case of severe calamity, where it is decided that it is a case of rare severity, we may think of doing something more. So, as the hon. Member has himself stated, we have done whatever we could.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, every year in one part or the other this tragic incident occurs. Therefore, will the Minister tell us the steps taken to have a permanent disaster prevention mechanism? In Kolar, Tumkur and Chitradurga nearly Rs. 50 crores worth of standing frop was damaged. I would like to know what steps the Central Government has taken to provide relief to these people.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, that question has already been answered. Regarding the disaster prevention scheme, there is a proposal by the Central Government and we have called a meeting of the State Ministers. We are trying to devise ways and means where we can minimise all these things. This calamity is inflicted by the vagaries of nature. so, it cannot just happen very extensively. Otherwise, I think, one is sure that the State Governments have to conserve that Calamity Relief Fund for a better use at a given time. It is not that daily these calamities occur. They happen sometime or the other and that Fund should not be utilised for other purposes, but it should be conserved and properly used at a given time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vaghela, this relates to Karnataka. I am allowing you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister that it is the misfortune of the country it has been experiencing natural calamities, such as famine, land-slides, cyclone and flood etc. It is observed that the Central Government provides more assistance to the States where their party is in power but the States where opposition parties are in power do not get equal treatment. Would the Central Government formulate any such policy in which the Chief Secretary to the State Government may be included in the

team of officers. If any State Government seeks any assistance, it should not be deducted from its quota. It happens every year and a team of officers visits the State every year. In this connection, a provision for setting up a team of officers for the States should be made.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that it is not so as the hon. Member has said. No State Government is being neglected. Rs. 105 crore was given to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, statistics are available with me, there is nothing to hide. The practice we have adopted is same for every state. We have given calamity relief fund to every state. We have given calamity relief fund to every state. We have not done that. It has been done by the State Government itself. The Committee of Chief Secretaries decides as to how much and when it is to be given and according to that decision this fund is given to all the state Governments. There is no partiality in it.

[*Translation*]

To be Answered on the 2nd April, 1992

Sen Committee

*513. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose for which Sen Committee was constituted;

(b) the broad recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The Committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Sen was constituted jointly by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in March, 1983. The Committee was set up to study the trends of agricultural production and productivity in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Eastern Uttar Pradesh; to identify constraints in achieving the potential levels of production; and to suggest measures, with particular reference to credit and investment, for achieving maximum possible production potential.

(b) Main spear-heads of development for Eastern States as recommended by the Committee inter-alia included massive provision of tube wells, pumps, controlled use of irrigation, appropriate water management techniques, adequate drainage net work, micro watershed development, orientation of input services and extension support to small and marginal farmers, land reforms, revitalisation of credit and cooperative institutions etc.

(c) The recommendations of the Committee were considered at a conference of Chief Ministers of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal held at Patna on 8th January, 1986 under the Chairmanship of the then Union Agriculture Minister. In the conference, there was a wide agreement on the strategic recommendations of the Committee. Since Agriculture is a State subject, the concerned State Governments were advised to implement the recommendations as part of their Plan Programmes. The State were also called upon to improve the quality of agricultural management, full utilisation of resources available under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and enforce credit discipline.

In response to the follow-up action initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, the information received so far reveals that many of the recommendations